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Editorial Comment

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Editorial Comment

Teachers need a challenge to excellence—academic and professional excellence. To meet this challenge, one must excel in the perseverance of worthwhile goals, love of truth and service to mankind. If one is to surpass, he must achieve those things which in themselves are most excellent. The contributions of John F. Kennedy are eternal symbols of such excellence. His life was spent in one single pursuit—service to all men irrespective of their creed, race or economic status.

Academic and professional excellence, however defined, cannot be displayed in ivory towers apart from our troubled world. It must contribute to the welfare, success and happiness of children, parents and our fellow men. It must not be evaluated only in terms of years spent in school nor only by the number of learned societies to which one belongs. Even advanced degrees without reinforcement by research, constant reading and study can become obsolete. Perhaps they too should be renewable like a driver's license and not be dependent upon past performance. The true test of academic and professional excellence is the use to which it can be put. What services to mankind can it render? What has been accomplished with it?

Academic and professional excellence cannot be developed rapidly and with ease. Who can prescribe the number of courses and the number of degrees essential for its attainment? Excellence is an integration of knowledge, experience and many academic skills and is the result of purposeful living and productive effort. Man's achievement quotient is the ratio of his performance to that which is expected of him and should be more than a one-to-one relationship. Excellence is achievement over and beyond the requirements of the task and its responsibilities. The reward of excellence is bestowed upon man because of his ability to create by his labor that which is needed in his time and that which is altogether wholesome and good. It is guaranteed to no man nor is it always recognized.

Homer L. J. Carter
Editor